

In the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, 20, 26, 27, and 28 are amended herein. No claims are cancelled herein. Claim 30 is added. All pending claims are reproduced below.

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method of providing information from a host
2 computer to a user through a control device, the host computer located apart from the control
3 device, the method comprising:
4 receiving an event signal at the control device from the host computer indicating an
5 occurrence of an event; and
6 responsive to receiving the event signal, generating a notification signal within to
7 alter a characteristic within a bounded region of the control device to notify
8 the user that the event has occurred.

A 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 notification signal comprises:
3 providing the user with a visual indication within the bounded region on the control
4 device that the event has occurred.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the visual indication comprises
2 illuminating a light source on the control device.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the light source blinks to indicate
2 that the event is urgent.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the notification signal
2 comprises:
3 providing the user with an audio indication on the control device that the event has
4 occurred.

1 6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 notification signal comprises:

3 providing the user with a vibratory indication within the bounded region on the
4 control device that the event has occurred.

1 7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 notification signal comprises:

3 providing the user with a tactile indication within the bounded region on the control
4 device that the event has occurred.

1 8. (Currently amended) A method for notifying a computer user of occurrence of
2 an event, the method comprising:

3 communicating receiving an event signal from a host computer to at a control device
4 that the event has occurred, the control device having including a region on its
5 surface for an alterable having a texture that is alterable; and
6 responsive to the communication event signal from the host computer, altering the
7 texture on in the region on the surface of the control device to provide a tactile
8 indication to notify the user that the event has occurred.

1 9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein altering the texture
2 comprises:

3 raising a plurality of pegs through a plurality of apertures in a the surface of the
4 control device.

I 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein raising the plurality of pegs
2 comprises:

3 rotating an actuator to push a lever which is communicatively coupled to the plurality
4 of pegs.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the actuator is of electromagnetic
2 type.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the electromagnetic actuator is bi-
2 stable.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the actuator is a solenoid.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of pegs is in a grid
2 shape.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of pegs is in a
2 quincunx shape.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the control device is a mouse.

1 17. (Original) A method for notifying a computer user of occurrence of an event,
2 the method comprising:

3 communicating from a host computer to a mouse that the event has occurred, the
4 mouse having a region on its surface for an alterable texture; and
5 responsive to the communication from the host computer, altering the texture on the
6 region on the surface of the mouse to notify the user that the event has
7 occurred, wherein altering the texture comprises raising a plurality of pegs
8 through a plurality of apertures in the region on the mouse.

1 18. (Original) A system for notifying a computer user of an occurrence of an
2 event by changing the texture of a region on the control device being used by the user, the
3 system comprising:

4 a plurality of pegs in the region on the control device for changing the texture of the
5 control device; and

6 an actuator module for controlling the plurality of pegs.

1 19. (Currently amended) A system for notifying a computer user of an occurrence
2 of an event by changing ~~the~~ a texture of a region on ~~the~~ a control device being used by the
3 computer user, the system comprising:

4 a key plate on the region of the control device; and

5 a pegs plate comprising a plurality of pegs, a portion of which can protrude through
6 the key plate to change the texture of the region on the control device.

1 20. (Currently amended) A system for notifying a computer user of an occurrence
2 of an event by changing ~~the~~ a texture of a region on ~~the~~ a control device being used by the
3 user, the system comprising:

4 a key plate on the region on the control device;

5 a pegs plate comprising a plurality of pegs, a portion of which can protrude through
6 the key plate to change the texture of the region on the control device;

7 a lever communicatively coupled to the pegs plate to reposition the pegs plate with
8 respect to the key plate;

9 a cam communicatively coupled to the lever for manipulating the lever; and

10 an actuator module communicatively coupled to the cam for rotating the cam.

1 21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the actuator module is bi-stable.

1 22. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the actuator module comprises a
2 solenoid.

1 23. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the lever is flexible.

1 24. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the pegs plate comprises a plurality
2 of pegs in a grid shape.

1 25. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the pegs plate comprises a plurality
2 of pegs in a quincunx configuration.

1 26. (Currently amended) A system for notifying a computer user of an occurrence
2 of an event by changing ~~the~~ a texture of a region on ~~the~~ a control device being used by the
3 user, the system comprising:

4 protruding means in corresponding with the region on the control device for changing
5 the texture of the region on the control device to provide tactile information;
6 and
7 actuator means for controlling the protruding means in response to an event signal
8 received from a host computer.

1 27. (Currently amended) A system for notifying a computer user of an occurrence
2 of an event by changing ~~the~~ a texture of a region on ~~the~~ a control device being used by the
3 user, the system comprising:

4 alterable means on corresponding with the region of the control device for altering the
5 texture of the region on the control device to provide a tactile indication; and
6 protruding means for protruding through the alterable means on the region of the
7 control device in response to an event signal received from a host computer.

1 28. (Currently amended) A computer program product for storing a program for
2 permitting a ~~computer~~ control device to perform a method of providing information to a user
3 through a control device from a host computer, the method comprising:

4 receiving an event signal from the host computer indicating an occurrence of an
5 event; and

6 responsive to receiving the event signal, generating a notification signal to alter a
7 characteristic within a region on the control device to provide tactile
8 information to notify the user that the event has occurred.

1 ✓ 29. (Original) A computer program product for storing a program for permitting a
2 computer to perform a method for notifying a computer user of occurrence of an event, the
3 method comprising:

4 communicating from a host computer to a control device that the event has occurred,
5 the control device having a region on its surface for an alterable texture; and
6 responsive to the communication from the host computer, altering the texture on the
7 region on the surface of the control device to notify the user that the event has
8 occurred.

1 ✓ 30. (New) A method for notifying a computer user of occurrence of an event, the
2 method comprising:

3 receiving an event signal from a host computer at a control device that the event has
4 occurred, the control device including a surface having a texture that is
5 alterable; and

6 responsive to the event signal from the host computer, altering the texture in the
7 region on the control device to provide tactile information to notify the user
8 that the event has occurred,

9 wherein altering the texture comprises raising a plurality of pegs through a plurality
10 of apertures on the surface of the control device.